



# *Employees' Retirement System Communicator*

February, 2011

No. 2

## **Contact Information**

### **Employees' Retirement System**

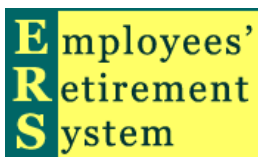
Please contact the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) at 414-278-4207 in Milwaukee or toll-free at 877-652-6377 outside of Milwaukee for all Pension questions, including Retirement calculations. You can also contact ERS via email at [ers@milwcnty.com](mailto:ers@milwcnty.com).

### **Life & Health Benefits**

Please contact the Benefit Division with Life and Health Benefits related questions at: 414-278-4198. You can contact Benefits via email at [benefits@milwcnty.com](mailto:benefits@milwcnty.com)

## **Newly Retired**

Dana Bode  
Renee Booker  
Janice Claussen  
Betty Carr  
Carl Clements  
Ellen Drury  
Patricia Elder  
Barbara Gray  
Beverly Green  
Carl Howell  
Phyllis Johnson  
Kristin Krienbring  
Stanley Lapidus  
Dale Larsen  
Raymondo Lopez  
Bobby Luckett  
Charles Mc Clelland  
Judith Meyers  
Jon Sanfilippo  
Kathleen Wanek  
Donnie Whiteside



## **From the Desk of the ERS Manager**

### **Good Reasons to Consolidate Your Finances**

The general rule for managing your finances is to keep it simple and organized. In order to allow for quick and continual review of your finances, it is imperative that they are grouped and easily cataloged. Most retirees have a variety of investments, retirement plans, properties, bonds and saving accounts. This represents many institutions and brokers coordinating your affairs.

The fewer institutions handling your assets translates into easier financial management for you. You want to always be aware of where your funds are and how they are working for you. Remember that millions of dollars each year are forfeited as unclaimed or abandoned assets.

Some of the benefits of financial consolidation include:

- Reduced paperwork
- Increased interest rates
- Tax simplification
- Fiscal control of assets
- Reduced financial fees
- Beneficiary accommodation

The ideal situation would be to use one financial institution for all checking, savings, loans and investment brokering. This unique partnership may foster a support system that could benefit you down the road and make any new financial dealings more favorable to you.

## **IMPORTANT YEAR END INFORMATION**

### **Pension COLA**

Annual COLA increase takes place yearly on the member's retirement anniversary date or the backdrop date if the member has elected the backdrop option. COLA increase is based on 2% of the original base monthly benefit.

### **2010 / 2011 Tax Information**

The 1099 forms for 2011 were mailed on Friday, January 28, 2011. If there are any issues related to your 1099, please direct your questions to Dale Yerkes at 414-278-4142.

Many of you may have noticed an increase in Federal tax being withheld on your January pension check. The likely reason for this is the expiration of the Making Work Pay Credit program ending on December 31. This credit allowed for a tax credit for working individuals. The IRS allowed pension plans to have an optional adjustment. We have loaded the 2011 tax tables into our pension system.

**Please turn page over for additional information**

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Please remember that you can change your tax withholdings at any time during the year. Also remember that it is always advisable to consult with your tax professional if you have any questions or concerns related to your financial situation.

## Life & Health Update

### Five Great Reasons To Use myuhc.com

The tools and information at myuhc.com are both practical and personalized so you can get the most out of your benefits. Register at myuhc.com and connect to current information about your plan benefits and health care interests.

1. **Compare costs for different health plans.** Choose a plan that's right for you and your family needs. Select Plan Cost Estimator located under Links and Tools
2. **Ask health care professionals.** Communicate one-on-one online 7 days a week with a registered nurse who can help answer your questions and give you advice. Select Live Nurse Chat located on the Home page
3. **Organize your medical claims online.** View processed claims, remaining balances for deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses via your Health Statements. Download claims to a spreadsheet, set-up automatic payments, direct deposits and more. Select Claims & Accounts
4. **Get information about hospitals and physicians.** Find information on network doctors and health care professionals. You can even find out what physicians are recognized in the UnitedHealth Premium® designation program, a free informational tool that evaluates physician and facilities using national quality and cost efficiency standards in their specialty. Select Physicians & Facilities
5. **Receive health care alerts.** Check for personalized messages that are specific to you and your myuhc.com account. Messages may include:
  - Health and cost savings information
  - Advantages of staying in network
  - Preventive care reminders

#### Register at myuhc.com today:

1. Click "Register Now"
2. Enter the requested information
3. Begin using the site

For more information, visit myuhc.com and click on Site Demo.

## In Memoriam

*Please keep the families of these recently deceased retirees and spouses in your thoughts:*

Rose Allen  
Marcella Carnell  
Cheryl Foley  
Gary Godfroy  
Marianne Hautanen  
Lavetta Hogans  
Victoria Kirkendoll

Jessie Laufenberg  
Kathleen Lawrence  
Irma Luebtow  
Henry McMurtagh  
Mary Neal  
Linda Olsen  
Mary Payne

Lorraine Perkins  
Mildred Picha  
Audrey Richards  
Verna Rummel  
Stephania Secora  
Crecensia Sepulveda  
Gloria Smith

Lydia Stammer  
Grace Taibl  
Mildred Weed  
Wilhelmina Wickboldt  
Donald Wilburth